

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 3, 2001 (BOS Mtg. 7/17/01)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution to Approve Arts Funding

Background and Process

The York County Board of Supervisors established an Arts Commission in 1989. Prior to that time the Board itself had reviewed funding requests and made decisions on small grants in support of the arts.

Although the individual grants are very small, the Board had a strong commitment to the arts and recognized the importance of encouraging cultural programming for York's citizens. As the arts community grew and requests multiplied, it became apparent that the Board needed an organized method of addressing this funding process. This was also seen as an opportunity to involve citizens in the work of County government.

The Commission was established with an expectation that citizen representatives, interested in the arts, would be well equipped to understand the needs and functions of arts organizations and also to assure that funding was directed to those activities that would benefit County residents. The Board appoints five members at-large. At present they are:

- Joyce Ashton
- Kathleen Herbert
- Barbara Henry
- Gregory McCarthy
- Sheila Myers

The Community Services Department, through the Division of Parks & Recreation, supports the Arts Commission. Molly Nealer, Recreation Supervisor, serves as staff liaison.

During the annual budget cycle, the Board of Supervisors considers the availability of funding that can be devoted to supporting the local arts organizations. For FY2002, the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$52,900. Additionally, the County is customarily able to secure grant funding from the Commonwealth. The maximum grant amount is \$5,000.

The Arts Commission accepts applications from the local arts organizations once each year. The application package requires a description of the organization, its history, status and accomplishments, as well as details regarding the proposed use of the funds.

The Arts Commission undertakes an exhaustive review of the applications and applicant organizations. They frequently interview and otherwise interact with these organizations.

As well, Arts Commission members and staff make every effort to observe or monitor the activities funded through the grant awards.

Some organizations are extremely small and virtually run by volunteers. In those cases, the small grants can represent the majority of the organization's resources. In other instances the organizations may be much larger and more sophisticated but the grant allows a special program for County residents that would not otherwise be provided. A good example of this is a contribution of \$875 to the Colonial Services Board that would be used to provide art and enrichment classes for hi-risk youth ages 7-13, in the Goosey-Rt. 238 corridor.

The contributions to Celebrate Yorktown Committee, the Fife and Drums and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation provide special programs in the Yorktown. It should be noted that as revitalization of the Village progresses, those programs are becoming increasingly important elements in the evolving fabric of the County's tourism activities.

Current

The York County Arts Commission has completed its review of FY2002 funding requests from local arts organizations. \$80,400 was requested by 30 arts organizations. However, for FY2002 a total of \$57,900 is available for the arts. \$52,900 is local funding in the approved County budget. Staff has received notification that again this year York has been awarded the maximum \$5,000 grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

The attached chart specifies recommended grant amounts for each organization and provides a brief explanation of the activities to be funded. The Arts Commission is recommending that each of these organizations receive funding in FY2002.

Recommendation

I recommend adoption of Resolution R01-119 to approve and distribute FY2002 County and State funding to local arts organizations.

Smith/4111:kms

Attachments

- FY2002 Grant Funding Recommendations
- Resolution R01-119